

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 118723

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, ASEC

SUBJECT: SOVIET REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION FOR AEROFLOT

REF: STATE 114508

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, SOVIET EMBASSY REQUESTED COMPENSATION FOR EXPENSES OF MAY 9 AEROFLOT FLIGHT'S RETURN TO JFK BECAUSE OF BOMB THREAT. DEPARTMENT SENT NOTE EXPRESSING REGRET FOR BOMB THREAT BUT DECLINING TO PAY COMPENSATION. FULL TEXT OF BOTH NOTES FOLLOWS:

2. TRANSLATION OF SOVIET EMBASSY NOTE NO. 34 OF MAY 10,
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1976:

3. QUOTE THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS BRINGS THE FOLLOWING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ON MAY 9, 1976 AT 10:10 P.M. AN UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN TELEPHONED THE AEROFLOT AGENCY AT J.F. KENNEDY AIRPORT AND STATED THAT A BOMB HAD BEEN PLACED ON BOARD THE SOVIET IL-62 AIRCRAFT MAKING THE REGULAR FLIGHT ON THE NEW YORK-MOSCOW ROUTE.

THE AIRCRAFT HAD TAKEN OFF AT 10:03 P.M. AFTER RECEIVING THIS COMMUNICATION, THE AEROFLOT REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA INSTRUCTED THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER TO JETTISON FUEL AND LAND AT J.F. KENNEDY AIRPORT.

AS A RESULT OF AN INSPECTION OF THE AIRCRAFT NO BOMB WAS DISCOVERED.

THE EMBASSY REGARDS THIS INCIDENT, WHICH, DUE TO THE FORCED JETTISONING OF FUEL, ENDANGERED THE LIVES OF THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF THE AIRCRAFT AND DISRUPTED ITS FLIGHT, AS YET ANOTHER PROVOCATION IN THE SERIES OF HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST SOVIET CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S.

IN CONNECTION WITH THIS, THE EMBASSY LODGES A PROTEST WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DEMANDS COMPENSATION FOR THE MATERIAL LOSSES SUSTAINED AND ONCE AGAIN WARNS THAT ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF PROVOCATIONS OF THIS KIND LIES WITH THE U.S. SIDE. END QUOTE.

4. DEPARTMENT'S NOTE OF MAY 13, 1976:

5. QUOTE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACKNOWLEDGES NOTE NO. 34 OF MAY 10, 1976 FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS; AND WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS REGRET CONCERNING THE MAY 9 TELEPHONED BOMB THREAT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE AEROFLOT OFFICE IN NEW YORK. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS BOMB THREATS TO AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS A SERIOUS MATTER, AND ITS INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO IDENTIFY AND PROSECUTE TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW THE PERPETRATORS OF SUCH ACTS. HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT COMPENSATE THE EXPENSES INCURRED BY AIRLINES, FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC, FOR MAKING UNSCHEDULED LANDINGS IN RESPONSE TO SUCH THREATS.

END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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